

April 2022 🧠

BrainStorming



BIAIA Events and Support

Several Support Groups Returning to In-Person SOON!

We continue to deliver virtual support groups, webinars and other web-based learning. Opportunities are highlighted on our Facebook, LinkedIn, and in the [BIAIA Events](#) tab on our website. If you are unable to attend live webinars, watch them on our [YouTube Page](#).

An event poster with a purple background. In the top right corner is the Brain Injury Alliance Iowa logo. The main title, "Seeing Things Differently: Understanding Vision Deficits After Brain Injury", is in white and red text. Below it is the speaker's name, "Michaela Stoneking, OTDS, Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student", in white. The date and time, "May 5, 2022 12:30PM-1:30PM", are in white. To the right is a 3D rendering of a human brain with a magnifying glass over it; the word "vision" is written in red inside the magnifying glass. At the bottom left, registration information is provided. At the bottom right is a QR code. A small disclaimer is at the very bottom.


**Seeing Things Differently:
Understanding Vision Deficits
After Brain Injury**

Michaela Stoneking, OTDS,
Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student

**May 5, 2022
12:30PM-1:30PM**

Register and learn more by scanning the code or going
to our website www.BIAIA.org and click on *Events*

The development of this project is supported through the Brain Injury Services Program (BISP) of Iowa, through contract 54828406 with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of IDPH.




Update in Stroke Supports

Katie Cordes MBA, BSN
American Heart Association


May 12, 2022
12:00PM-1:00PM

Learn more and register on our website
WWW.BIAIA.ORG and click on *Events* or scan the code



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IDPH
IOWA Department of PUBLIC HEALTH



**April is
Occupational
Therapy Month
#OTMonth**



"Following a traumatic brain injury (TBI), occupational therapy (OT) can help you regain the physical skills you need to participate in work, school, and daily life. It can sometimes take a long time to recover from a TBI, but your occupational therapist can help you make progress toward participating more fully in the activities of daily life. Consistent and direct guidance from your OT, along with regular, targeted practice, will build new neural pathways, helping you redevelop old skills or develop new skills (a different way of doing things) until you become more adept again."

[Learn More](#)

**Advocacy:
Support Home and
Community Based**



Services Funding

"The Iowa Legislature decides how to spend your state tax dollars. The US Congress decides how to spend your federal tax dollars. Both the Iowa Legislature and the US Congress are thinking about giving big increases to support people with disabilities in the community, provide more opportunities for employment, and pay those that provide this support better. That's really exciting news, but it will take advocacy for this to actually happen."

[Learn More](#)

April Showers "What is Emotional Flooding?"



"After a TBI, people can experience both neurocognitive and psychological symptoms. When the brain is healing, it needs rest. Engaging in activities or being stimulated past the point of fatigue can result in emotional flooding. For some people, this can manifest as crying spells."

[Learn More](#)



**Stroke Highlight:
Computer Science
Professor Used His
Stroke to Create An
App That Helps
Survivors Relearn Skills**

"Mark could understand what other people said, but struggled to speak, which is called **aphasia**. He also lacked control of the muscles used to form words, called **apraxia**. Mark feared he would have to relearn every word he ever knew. Then he was taught a shortcut: The same sounds are used in many words. *"I realized there's a pattern, like an algorithm in computer science,"* he said. It triggered an idea for Mark and Carolyn. Maybe they could use his experience to develop their own app."

[Read the Full Article](#)

Research Studies: Verbal Working Memory and Attention Remediation for Adults with TBI



"The purpose of this research study is to assess if computerized cognitive training improves thinking and memory in adults with a brain injury. If you qualify for the study and volunteer for the study, you will undergo 3 remote cognitive assessments, answer questions on surveys on the computer, and participate in 40 online computerized training sessions. The cognitive assessments will take about 2 hours and the training sessions are about 1 hour each. It will take about 20 weeks to complete the study. There are no anticipated risks to you participating in this study, but some people may experience frustration and fatigue. The results of this research may help others in the future, improve treatment for people with a brain injury, and contribute to the research on brain injuries. Your participation is voluntary and you are not required to participate in this study. You can withdraw from the study at any time. **You will receive a \$25.00 gift card for each cognitive assessment.**" **Questions: Contact Gerald Voelbel, PhD. at gv23@nyu.edu**

[Learn More](#)

Lawmakers Introduce Bills to Authorize



HHS to Collect Data on Brain Injury Resulting from IPV

"March 31, Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Representative Co-chairs, Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-N.J.) and Rep. Don Bacon (R-Nebr.), and Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) introduced H.R. 7301 and S. 3962 to authorize the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to collect data on prevalence of brain injuries resulting from intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual assault. The need for data was a recommendation from the U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) who studied state and national initiatives addressing brain injury due to intimate partner or domestic violence. Individuals experiencing intimate partner or domestic violence may experience brain injury as the result of blows to the head or strangulation. The GAO noted that there is little federal data on the prevalence of this public health problem, so it's uncertain whether federal resources are addressing it efficiently. Therefore, the report recommended that HHS improve data collection. The legislation introduced is in response to that recommendation. The bill text has yet to be published."

[Learn More](#)

IPV and TBI Resources

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Human Services (DHS) [Alignment](#)



"The Iowa Departments of Public Health (IDPH) and Human Services (DHS) are one step closer to becoming a single agency. The departments released the final change package and functional organizational chart. This serves as the roadmap to bring together both agencies under a single leadership structure. The goal of this work is to strengthen coordination amongst existing services and provide more comprehensive services to all Iowans."

Caregivers: NEW Facebook Live



[Join Here](#)

How Are We Doing?



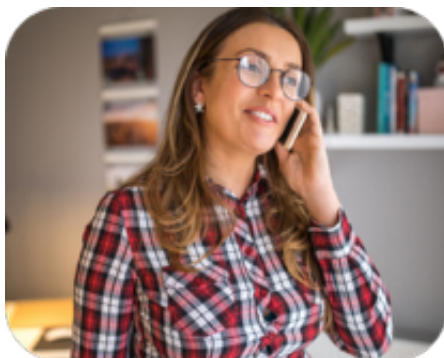
**BIAIA Staff Highlight:
Ali Martin BA, CBIS
Neuro Resource
Facilitator
She/Her**



Ali joined the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa in January 2020. She is a Neuro Resource Facilitator and a Certified Brain Injury Specialist. She graduated from Grand View University with her Bachelors in Psychology where she researched brain injuries and the correlation to mental health. Prior to BIAIA, she worked in the substance abuse and mental health field. She is certified in mental health first aid. Her life's purpose is fueled by personal experience, curiosity for neuroscience, human behavior, and the passion to help others overcome life's challenges, especially those who have survived brain injury and have co-occurring disorders. Ali enjoys learning new information that she can share with others to provide them tools for healing. Along with education, Ali believes in providing support, hope, empowerment, humor, positivity, and resources to those in her community.

She is very passionate about animal and human rights and enjoys doing art, creative activities, reading, thrifting, antiquing, being in nature, and spending quality time with loved ones.

Neuro Resource Facilitation



Neuro Resource Facilitation is a fee-free service offered by the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa to support people with brain injury, their family members, caregivers and community navigate life after brain injury.

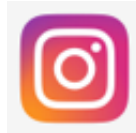
- To reach a Neuro Resource Facilitator please contact 855-444-6443 or

email info@biaia.org.

- Consider a donation to the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa, as we continue to support Iowans to "live well" after brain injury. Click [HERE](#) to make a donation today.
- Iowans affected by brain injury, family and caregivers are invited to our support group communities. Click [HERE](#) to learn more, register to join and share.

Thank you to our corporate members! Click [HERE](#) to learn more about our corporate members and corporate membership benefits.

Our mission at the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, advocacy, education, research and support. Join us on our platforms to obtain the latest and most relevant information pertaining to brain injury.



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